

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00307 101124Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 MMO-01 /019 W
-----105072 101214Z /15
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5798

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FOR AF/W SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR
SUBJECT: REPORTING FROM LAGOS

REF: SMITH LETTER OF DECEMBER 15 TO AMBASSADOR

1. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS RELATE TO POINTS IN YOUR LETTER UNDER REFERENCE.
2. WHEN YOU CHECK WITH THE PRINCIPAL END-USERS OF OUR REPORTING OVER THE LAST YEAR, WE WOULD PARTICULARLY WELCOME AN EVALUATION OF THE FOLLOWING REPORTS:
(A) LAGOS 10474, 10480, 10533, AND 10653 (FOUR-PART-ANALYSIS OF NIGERIAN ECONOMY);
(B) LAGOS 0240 (1978) (COAL SECTOR PROBLEMS);
(C) A-45 OF MAY 19 ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT;
(D) AGRICULTURE ATTACHE'S REPORT NA 7011 OF APRIL 25 (NIGERIA: AGRICULTURAL POLICY);
(E) LAGOS 9227 (FOREIGN EXCHANGE SCANDAL);
(F) A-91 OF OCTOBER 12 (ELECTRIC POWER SECTORAL SURVEY);
(G) LAGOS 13313 (PROBLEMS OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT);
(H) A-98 OF OCTOBER 29 (THE FORTHCOMING CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY);
(I) A-72 OF JULY 30 (LABOR REPORT);
(J) LAGOS 13461 (FMG WARNING ON POLITICAL PARTIES);

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- (K) NSAO REPORT 6871027977 OCTOBER 5 (ARMY-CIVILIAN CLASH NEAR ENUGU);
(L) DAO REPORT 6871034177 DECEMBER 21 (ARMY DEMOBILIZATION);
(M) USIS MESSAGE FM-20 OF DECEMBER 9 (MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS);
(N) USINFOR 171005Z NOVEMBER 77 (MEDIA REACTION REPORT ON US/ NIGERIAN RELATIONS AND CARTER TRIP POSTPONEMENT);
(O) USINFO 151437Z NOVEMBER 77 (MEDIA REACTION REPORT ON US.

POLICY IN SOUTH AFRICA);

(P) A-109 OF DECEMBER 10 (BIMONTHLY REVIEW OF NIGERIAN SCENE);

3. FOR THE TIME BEING, UNTIL WE HAVE HAD FURTHER EXPERIENCE WITH IT, WE EXPECT TO SUBMIT AN OVERALL SURVEY ANALYSIS OF THE NIGERIAN SCENE ON A BIMONTHLY BASIS. IF WE FIND THAT THIS IS TOO SHORT A PERIOD IN WHICH TO DEFINE TRENDS, WE WILL MOVE TO A QUARTERLY FREQUENCY.

4. AS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF OUR REPORTING, THIS IS DONE ON A SECTION BY SECTION BASIS. THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR DESIGNATES THE REPORTS WHICH ARE TO BE PREPARED, DRAWING UPON EMBASSY-WIDE VIEWS REGARDING THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES, DISCUSSIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE (TO A LESSER DEGREE) WITH WASHINGTON END-USERS, THE CIA'S ECONOMIC ALERT LIST, AND THE CERP. THE POLITICAL SECTION, THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE AND USIS OPERATE IN A SIMILAR FASHION EXCEPT THAT THEY HAVE NO DOCUMENTS COMPARABLE TO THE ALERT LIST OR THE CERP. THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM OFTEN SUGGEST TO SECTION CHIEFS SUBJECTS ON WHICH THEY WOULD WISH REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED AND OFTEN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ORGANIZATION AND CONTENTS OF THE REPORTS. A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE REPORTS PREPARED BY THE POLITICAL SECTION ARE REVIEWED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND/OR DCM PRIOR TO SUBMISSION, WHEREAS THE GREAT BULK OF REPORTS PREPARED BY ECON, DATT AND USIS ARE READ IN THE FRONT OFFICE AFTER THEIR TRANSMITTAL.

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5. WE CONSIDER THAT WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING ADEQUATE GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON IN RELATION TO THE SELECTION OF SUBJECTS FOR REPORTING. ALTHOUGH VERY LITTLE OF THIS GUIDANCE HAS TAKEN WRITTEN FORM (EXCEPT FOR THE ALERT LIST AND THE CERP), NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON, ON THE TRANS-ATLANTIC PHONE AND WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS IN LAGOS HAVE PROVIDED US WITH A GOOD PICTURE OF THE SUBJECTS OF GREATEST INTEREST. WE HAVE HAD LESS FEEDBACK THAN WE MIGHT WISH, ON THE OTHER HAND, REGARDING WASHINGTON VIEWS ON THE QUALITY AND UTILITY OF THE REPORTS WE HAVE SUBMITTED. THE DEPARTMENT'S RECENT REVIEW OF OUR REPORTING, AND THE FOCUS EXERCISE, HAVE PROVIDED US WITH MORE INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE BUT THIS GUIDANCE RELATES MORE TO SUBJECT AREAS THAN TO SPECIFIC REPORTS. MORE COMMENTS FROM WASHINGTON END-USERS ON SPECIFIC REPORTS WOULD CERTAINLY BE VERY HELPFUL.

6. FOR THE FUTURE, WE ARE MAKING PLANS TO KEEP WASHINGTON BETTER INFORMED REGARDING THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT AREAS ON WHICH WE WILL BE REPORTING. WE WILL WELCOME WASHINGTON'S REACTION TO SUCH LISTS AND WE WILL PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE LETTERS ON TELEGRAMS FROM AF/W REGARDING TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST IN WASHINGTON WHICH WE ARE NOT COVERING.

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